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12 April 1958

**COMPARISON OF FOREIGN INFORMATION SOURCES,  
EVALUATED IN TERMS OF  
RELATIVE USEFULNESS TO ORR**

The use and values of various sources expressed in this report reflect ORR's responsibility for producing economic intelligence on the Sino-Soviet Bloc and on selected Bloc activities in the Free World as well as responsibility for producing worldwide geographic intelligence largely on areas within and peripheral to the Bloc. The definition of sources is designed to facilitate general, subjective evaluation in terms of volume, subject coverage, importance of the intelligence problem to which the information relates, the extent of use in the Office, and any special limitations obtaining. Sources considered here do not include technical collection systems, such as SLINT, COMINT, and RADINT.

**I. Bloc Publications (Books, periodicals, journals, handbooks, press announcements, etc., both translated and in the original language)**

These comprise the largest single source of economic and geographic intelligence. In some cases, 70 to 80 percent of an ORR publication is based on analysis of information of this type. Bloc statistical reports and handbooks are very valuable for general economic appraisals and for aggregative analysis of individual economies. Books, periodicals, economic and technical journals, and the press are used extensively in both geographic and economic research.

**II. Attache Reports (Army, Navy, Air, Agricultural, Geographic, and Economic Attaches and Reporting Officers)**

These represent the largest single source of selective economic and geographic intelligence information.

██████████, utilizing the military and other attaches as trained, technical reporters, provides continuing guidance for observational reporting from inside the Bloc. The resultant intelligence information is used extensively throughout both the Economic and Geographic Research Areas of the Office. The reported information is pinpointed to priority economic and geographic targets. The reports from Agricultural and Geographic Attaches and State Economic Reporting Officers also have a high value, but are not used so widely throughout the Office. The main limitation on both derives from Bloc travel restrictions.

**III. Bloc Radio Broadcast Intercept (FRLS)**

Intercepts of Bloc radio broadcasting are another high-volume, broad coverage source. The information is widely used in all research

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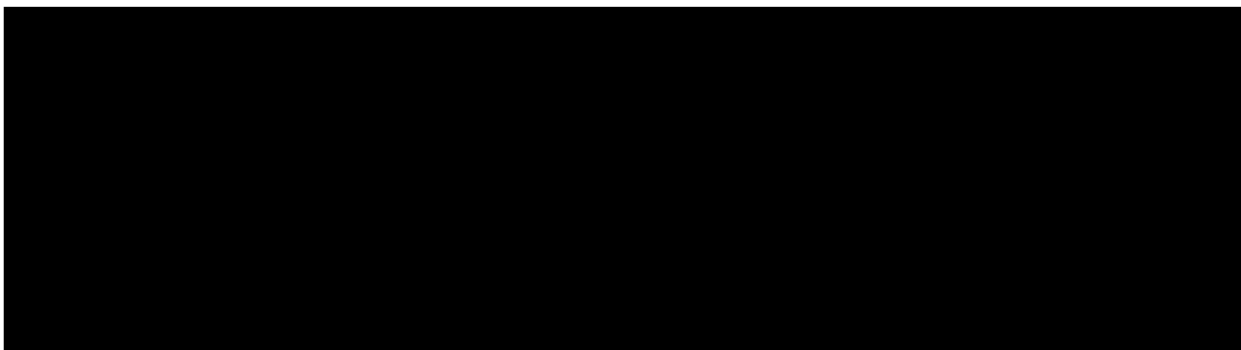
components of the Office. Much of this source's value derives from the information's currency, its detailed character, and its broad coverage in both subject content and geographic area. For example, this source provides highly important data to the research analyst working on machine tools, on economic plans and their fulfillment, and on geographic problems. For some parts of the Soviet Far East, this source is particularly useful. The basic limitations derive from the nature of the source and the variations in regional coverage.

IV. State (Political reporting)

Information from this source provides the background so essential to the assessment of the current economic situation and policy trends of Bloc nations. State's political reporting is a most valuable source for analysis of the interrelationships of political and economic policy within the Bloc, particularly in respect to longer term projections of economic growth.

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V.



VI. Clandestine

Information obtained by clandestine means does not provide as extensive a source of useful material for economic and geographic intelligence analysis as does the bulk of information received through overt collection channels. It is particularly valuable for detailed geographic area and urban studies. In many cases, it provides detailed data on Bloc economic activities in the Free World, and on living conditions and industries in the European Satellites. However, data received from this

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VII. Foreign Intelligence Exchange



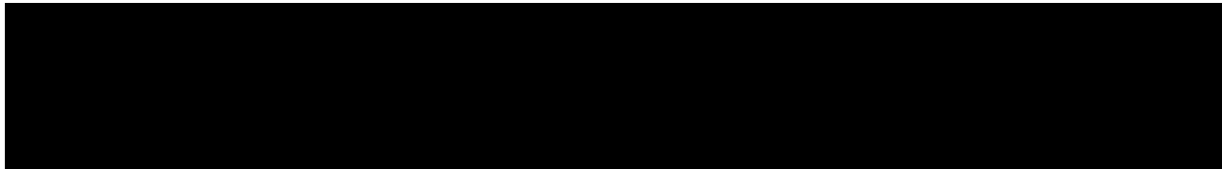
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The information obtained from this source is relatively unimportant to the over-all Office research and analysis, but is of value in regard to certain areas and problems. In [redacted] information from

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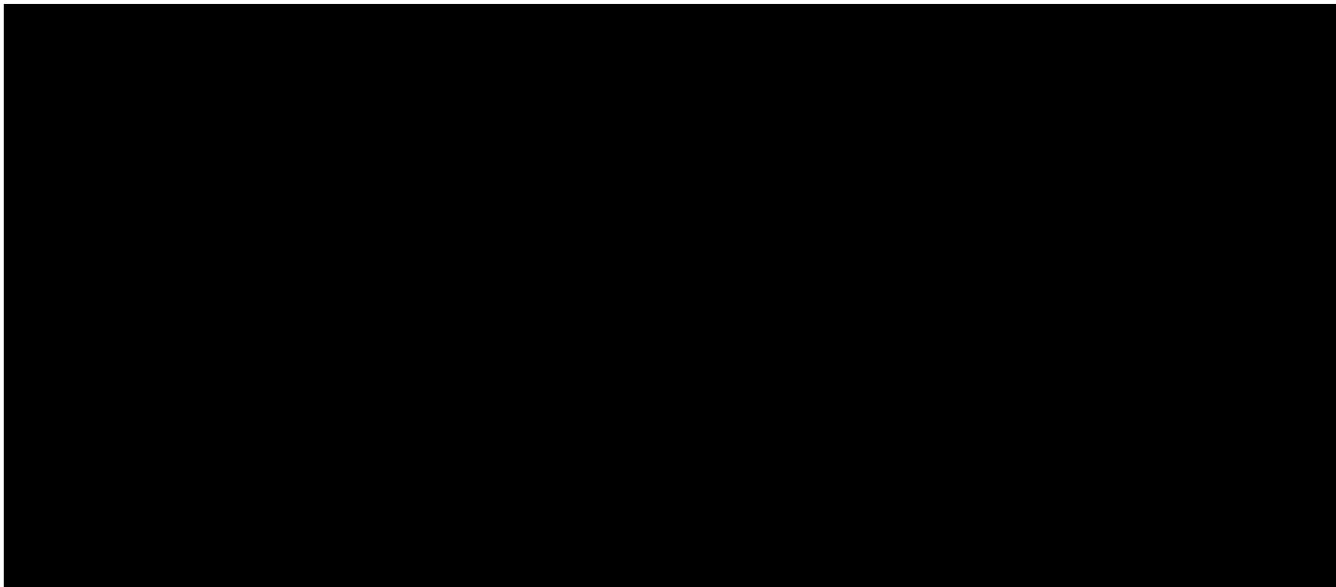
VIII. East-West Nondiplomatic Contacts

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East-West nondiplomatic contacts are a relatively new source which has already provided very valuable economic and geographic data on selected subjects and problems. The present trend indicates the flow of helpful, and possibly unique, information from this source will increase.

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Distribution:

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OAD/RR/WCHouse:OEGuthe:mhs/2817 (12 April 1958)